

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS

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May 9, 2008

TO: Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Service Providers

SUBJECT: PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION INFORMATION

Beginning in 2007, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) began funding a variety of county-level Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs. These funds are of particular interest to alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment and prevention stakeholders. Unlike most MHSA funding, PEI funds may be used to provide services to a wide range of individuals vulnerable to mental illness, not just those with Serious Mental Illness. PEI programs are shaped by the MHSA PEI Guidelines, which allow counties to develop and implement PEI programs designed to meet its local needs. Statewide, counties will receive approximately \$40-\$60 million dollars for PEI programs.

Many of the characteristics of the PEI Priority Populations are associated with trauma exposure, stressed families, school failure and involvement with substance abuse. Since substance abuse can exacerbate mental illness, PEI funds offer an opportunity for AOD providers to deliver preventative and early onset co-occurring disorders services. As such, the MHSA PEI funding provides a viable opportunity for AOD providers to enhance services.

In an effort to assist the AOD provider community, the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) has prepared a PEI Planning Guide that will assist AOD providers understand the requirements of the PEI component of the MHSA. With this information, programs will be better able to effectively participate in the local PEI planning process and to compete for funding available for PEI services. The Guide can be downloaded at:

http://adptest.adp.ca.gov/COD/pdf/PEI_Guide.doc

The ADP Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) Unit has also developed strategies for potential PEI programs that providers could submit to county planners. With proactive advocacy, your county may choose to implement programs that are based on these recommended strategies, which can be downloaded at:

<http://www.adp.ca.gov/COD/pei.shtml>



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ADP encourages AOD providers to collaborate with local bodies, agencies, and officials in refining and promoting these strategies and designing PEI services. County meeting and public comment timelines and procedures for the PEI proposal process should be available through county mental health officials. In the meantime, because jointly proposed programs or strategies are more likely to gain county support, informal meetings with potential stakeholders are suggested.

Additionally, the Co-Occurring Disorders Unit has data, research citations, and other important information that supports the PEI strategies as being evidence-based and/or best practices in its new *COD e-Circular*. It may be downloaded at:

<http://www.adp.ca.gov/COD/documents.shtml>

ADP continues to work closely with Co-Occurring Joint Action Council and other stakeholders in support of continued improvement in COD treatment for Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Renée Zito".

RENÉE ZITO, LMSW, CASAC
Director

cc: County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators